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Volunteers MAGAZINE

Vol. 19, No. 22 / June 23, 1997

News from the Tennessee Volunteers

A Year in Review!

A look at the sports year of 1996-97 VOLUNTEERS MAGAZINE STAFF

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Neyland Stadium North End Addition Leads off 1996-97 Sports Year

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Head track coach Bill Webb (left) and assistant coach George Watts have signed a talented group for next season.

Vol Tracksters Add Signees

The Tennessee track program made additions to the spring class of signees. Will Jay, a native of New Orleans, La., will join the Vols during the Fall semester. The sprinter and jumper comes to UT with a career best mark of 10.67 in the 100 meter dash and 21.60 in the 200 meters. As a long jumper at Benjamin Franklin High School, he posted a best mark of 23-1 1/2.

A native of Jeffersonville, Ind., Ian Baker will join the ranks at Tennessee with a number of accolades to his credit. As a member of the track team at Jeffersonville High School, Baker was awarded All-State honors during his senior year and All-Conference for three seasons. He boasts a best time of 36.63 in the 300 meter low hurdles and 48.9 in the 400 meter dash.

Matthew Rush of New Paris, Ind., holds two school records at Fairfield High School, including the high jump (6-7) and 100 meter high hurdles (14.36). His prep team went undefeated in the conference during his senior season, and Rush later walked away with the conference titles in the high jump, 100 meter high hurdles, and 300 meter low hurdles.

Vol Trackster on All-District Team

Junior Tom Pappas from Azalea, Ore., was named to the District IV GTE All-America Second Team. Pappas holds a 3.83 grade point average in Recreation and Leisure Studies with an emphasis on Private and Commercial Business. He recently took top honors in the decathlon at the SEC Outdoor Championships, winning with 7677 points, and qualifying for the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Coverage of the men's NCAA Championships can be found on page 12, with women's results in our next issue.

Kurt Keene Named Freshman All-America

Tennessee freshman Kurt Keene was named Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America by Collegiate Baseball. Keene was one of two shortstops named to the first team. Keene finished second in batting for the Volunteers with a .368 average, while leading the team in home runs (13), doubles (23) and RBI (58). He was the only Vol named all-conference as he earned Second Team honors at shortstop.

Diamond Vol Earns Postseason Honor

Ken Folkers picked up Midwest Regional All-Tournament honors with his performance in the Vols trip to Stillwater, Okla. Folkers, a senior, batted .455 (5-for-11) and picked up the Vols lone win in the tournament with a 5-2 victory over Ohio. The Vols lost to Oklahoma State and UCLA to end their season with a 42-19 mark.

UT Assistant Baseball Coach Departs

University of Tennessee assistant coach Torry Zerilla departed from the Vols to take the Director of Baseball Operations position at the Unlimited Sports Abroad Baseball Academy in Richmond, Va. He will be in charge of youth baseball clinics in Virginia, in addition to handling the day-to-day operations of the academy.

Zerilla, who was a volunteer coach for the Volunteers this past season, coached first base, while working with Tennessee's hitters and outfielders. The Vols posted the highest batting average in school history of .326 and a school record 78 home runs.

Important Camp Information

Baseball (423) 974-2057: July 13-18 (Overnight & Day), July 20-25 (O and D); select baseball camps are July 27-Aug. 1 (O and D); Specialty camps for pitchers, catchers and hitting are June 21-22 (day and overnight camps). **Men's basketball** 974-1207: Individual- July 27-31 (O & D), and for team camps it will be June 24-28 (O & D). **Women's basketball** 974-1111: Individual- July 6-10 (O & D) and July 12-16 (O). **Cross Country & Track** 974-1433: June 29-July 3 (O & D). **Soccer** 974-9359: July 27-31 (O). **Women's Softball** 974-4275: July 21-24 Adidas Day Camp.

Kenneth "Bubba" Waldron

Kenneth "Bubba" Waldron of Smyrna was recently honored as the top male athlete in the recently completed Special Olympics. For his effort, he received an autographed football from the Vols as well as a UT hat and jersey. Congratulation, Bubba.

Next Issue

In our next issue we will have features on the season review of track and field for the men's and women's programs, a 1996-97 Parade of Champions, TWIBOC, baseball's newest staff member, and a special feature on the VASF page on our two newest Nathan Dougherty Endowment Donors.

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University President
Dr. Joseph Johnson

University Vice-Chancelor
Dr. William Snyder

Men's Athletics Director
Douglas A. Dickey

Women's Athletic Director
Joan Cronan

Associate Athletics Director for Media Relations
Haywood Harris

Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Information
Bud Ford

Editor and Director of Special Publications
Thomas J. Mattingly

Advertising Manager
Chip Bryant

Contributing Writers
Ben Byrd, Rob Hardin, Donnell Field, Steve Sams, Kevin Marina, Chad King, Nathan Kirkham, Jeff Muir, Brenda Rabon, Brad Laux

Contributing Photographers
U. T. Photographic Services

Publisher's Office
Room 267, Stokely Athletics Center, 1720 Volunteer Blvd., Knoxville, TN
(423) 974-1266

Mailing Address
Volunteers Magazine
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Question of Influence

EDITOR'S NOTE: We recently received a letter from William B. Marsh, president and CEO of the Peoples and Union Bank in Lewisburg, letting us know that a Marshall County High School Senior named Christopher Whitaker had won a $1,000 scholarship from the bank for an essay he had written about the person who had most influenced his education. His subject was Vol quarterback Peyton Manning. Here's what he wrote.

The motivation to learn and excel comes from many factors: determination, will to achieve, and role models, to name a few. The most recent role model to inspire the furthering of my education would be Peyton Manning, quarterback at UT.

Everyone knows of Peyton's accolades and athletic abilities on the field, but often overlooked are his classroom achievements. Peyton has chosen to major in Business and Marketing while in college. He maintains a high B or a low A average in his classes. He has done so well in school that he will graduate after only three years of undergraduate studies. His future plans are to finish graduate school and play in the NFL. He is a posterboy for the "stay in school" campaign because he has gone through college and realizes it is hard work. He has not dropped out, nor has he foregone his senior year of school to play on Sundays. Most analysts say he was guaranteed a contract in the range of twenty to thirty million dollars. Yet Peyton has decided the money and the pros will be there next year. He is choosing college life and education over the glitz and glamour of NFL stardom.

Peyton has motivated me to stay in school and do my best in everything. Though I am not nearly as gifted as he is on the gridiron, I have excelled in the classroom most of my life. Sometimes it would be terribly easy to throw up my hands and quit. It would make my life simpler not to stay up half the night reading or doing schoolwork. Though some measure of motivation comes from inside, the rest must come from somewhere else. I plan to continue my football career in college, and it will inevitably be a struggle to play ball and keep up my grades, just as it has been throughout high school.

Peyton Manning is the leader in the Vol huddle and a positive influence on all who come in contact with him.

It is extremely difficult to be a successful scholar-athlete, yet Peyton manning has done it very well. All the times I could simply quit because it was too hard, I look to him for motivation. He has been through college and has the battle scars to prove it. It has served only to make him a stronger and more successful young man with the passage of time. While our football abilities may be worlds apart, our toils and struggles are quite similar. I truly hope to learn from his successful example. If I face college with the same courage and determination as Peyton has, then college will be one of the most fulfilling, happy and success times of my life.

FINAL NOTE: In his reply, Peyton said simply: "It is a good feeling to know that I may somehow have provided you a good example to follow. That point in itself is very special to me."

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Spotlight on the 1996-97 Seasons...
YEAR IN REVIEW ON TENNESSEE ATHLETICS!

With the addition of the North End Zone Upper Deck, the Vols set a school attendance record (105,418 avg.) and an NCAA record with 107,608 in the Vols game with Florida.

Grid Vols Post 10-Win Season

Tennessee earned a top 10 ranking in the national polls for the second straight season in 1996 by combining a high-scoring offense with a grudging defense that finished among the leaders in NCAA statistics.

The overall 10-2 record gave Phillip Fulmer's Vols runner-up position in the Eastern Division of the Southeastern Conference (7-1) and was followed by a win in the Citrus Bowl Jan. 1 at Orlando, Fla., over Big Ten Co-Champion Northwestern Wildcats.

Citrus Bowl MVP Peyton Manning became the first Tennessee player ever to pass for over 3000 yards in a single season. The gifted junior quarterback headed a formidable offense that meshed with a stingy, ball-hawking defense that kept the Big Orange among college football's elite powerhouses.

Led by the stellar trio of Manning, tailback Jay Graham and wide receiver Joey Kent, the offense averaged 35 points a game, while the defense set a school record for tackles behind the line of scrimmage with 83. Linebacker Tyrone Hines and defensive back Raymond Austin were statistical leaders with 24 and 22 Big Plays, respectively.

Tennessee began the season with a bang in wins over UNLV and UCLA. After the loss to Florida before the nation's largest crowd (107,608), the Vols rebounded to post wins over Georgia and Ole Miss before taking on the Crimson Tide at Neyland Stadium. The Vols needed the stingy defense and another back-breaking run by Jay Graham to subdue the Tide in the Vols 20-13 win.

The Vols regrouped from the loss to Memphis to whip Arkansas and Kentucky and survive a defensive struggle in Nashville with the Vanderbilt Commodores.

In the Citrus Bowl, Tennessee jumped to a 21-0 first quarter lead and saw Northwestern close to 21-21 late in the second quarter before scoring the game's next 20 points en route to a 48-28 victory.

With the 10-2 record, the Vols finished ninth in both polls. Tennessee also rewrote its passing records this past season, eclipsing the marks set the previous season. Manning broke into the top 10 in every major passing category in the SEC recordbook, while Kent became the first SEC receiver to record back-to-back 1000-yard seasons. The Vol defense led the SEC in total defense, pass efficiency defense, scoring defense and ranked third in rushing defense.

Volleyball Team Posts Major Turnaround

After compiling a 17-46 overall mark in 1994 and 1995, including 2-26 in the conference, the Lady Vol volleyball team came together in 1996 to notch one of the biggest turnarounds in the squad's history. Led by the efforts of two-time All-SEC selection sophomore outside hitter Kelly Hanlon and three team members who played little or no role the year before, Tennessee posted a 17-16 record including a 6-8 mark in the SEC. The result was a 10-game turnaround and the team's best record since 1993.

Hanlon lead the team in total kills and digs for the second straight season. However, unlike last year when injuries and defections depleted the team's roster, Hanlon had more help in 1996. Freshman outside hitter Christina Jestila and middle blockers junior Courtney Huettemann and sophomore Mary Heinecke gave the team the punch it needed to offset Hanlon. Jestila made quite an impression in her first season, finishing second to Hanlon in kills and digs, while Huettemann, who sat out 1995 with a shoulder

Sophomore Kelly Hanlon led the resurgence of the Lady Vol Volleyball team, which finished 17-16.

injury, and Heinecke, who played the least of anyone on the roster at the end of 1995, plugged up the middle — a major weakness from the year before.

The season began with the first three weekends on the road at tournaments against top competition. Five of the next six matches were at home, headlined by the annual Mazda Classic, but it was a 3-2 win over perennial power LSU that showed flashes of the team's talent. UT rallied from a 2-0 deficit and down game-point in the third frame to take its first SEC match in nearly two years.

As a team, the sophomore-dominated Lady Vols were gaining experience and coming together. A four-game win streak entering the final month of the season included the second victory of the year over powerhouse Georgia. A .500 record was guaranteed when the team swept UNC Asheville just before the SEC Tournament. However, UT could not capitalize on their momentum, losing the final three matches of the year, including a first-round tournament loss to Mississippi State, 3-1. At the tournament, junior Kerry Ginter, and sophomores Abbey Blazer and Heinecke were named to the Academic All-SEC team.

Big Things in Hoops!

In the months since the Lady Vol basketball team won its record fifth national title, head coach Pat Summitt has often been congratulated with the following statement,

Sophomore Chamique Holdsclaw earned her second straight All-America honor while leading the way to another national crown.

"Great season". Appropriately, she has responded, "No, great tournament."

Entering the NCAA Tournament with its lowest seed (No. 3) and its worst record since 1986, the chance of the defending NCAA champs taking back-to-back titles was at best slim. Yet, that chance became a reality when 10th-ranked Tennessee upended scrappy Old Dominion, 68-59, in the national championship to finish 29-10. It was a seemingly improbable sequence of events that included a Midwest Regional championship win over undefeated and top-ranked Connecticut, 91-81, and a Final Four victory against unheralded Notre Dame, 80-66. It was a season of few highs and several pitfalls, including losses both on and off the court.

When UT tipped off the season against Austin Peay on November 15 in its first-ever preseason NIT, it was the earliest starting date in Tennessee history. Back-to-back home games against Georgia and then top-ranked Stanford followed in early December. A 94-93 loss to the Bulldogs put UT in a tailspin. Falling to the Cardinal, 82-65, before starting a grueling three-week, six-game road trip during the Christmas holiday, was only the beginning of the troubles. Two tough wins in Texas were followed by a heartbreaking loss to then-No. 22 Arkansas, 77-75, and eventually defeats at the hands of then-No. 1 UConn, 72-57, and No. 2 ODU, 83-72.

UT eventually returned home, but stumbled again on the road losing for the first time ever to Florida. A win over Alabama helped heal the wound and began an eight-game win streak, but it also meant the loss of junior point guard Laurie Milligan for the season with a leg injury just five games after Jolly returned to the lineup. Road losses to LSU and Louisiana Tech ended the regular season on a sour note.

By virtue of finishing fifth in the SEC standings, UT was forced to play on the opening day of the SEC Tournament for the first time ever, where upstart Auburn took out Tennessee, 61-59. Recognized that weekend was the Lady Vols' only all-SEC selection, sophomore forward Chamique Holdsclaw, who was also named to the SEC all-tournament team, while senior forward Abby Conklin, sophomore forward Brynae Laxton and Jolly received Academic All-SEC accolades.

Grambling State and Oregon were the Lady Vols' two victims in the annual Thompson-Boling Arena NCAA Tournament opener. The first-round contests were not without drama as Jolly (who went on to be named to the Final Four all-tournament team) turned her ankle in the waning minutes of the Grambling matchup, go through nearly 48 hours of virtual non-stop therapy, and return to a hero's welcome for the Oregon contest.

A win over higher-seeded Colorado came next, setting up the much-anticipated contest with Connecticut. Holdsclaw helped put UT ahead of UConn from the start and never looked back en route to her honor as Midwest Region MVP.

As was the case in every game in the '97 NCAA run, the two-time All-American topped

Sophomore Brandon Wharton lead the Vols in scoring (16.8 ppg) and earned All-SEC honors.

the scoring for the Lady Vols, tacking up 31 in the semifinals and 24 in the national championship to earn distinction as Final Four Most Outstanding Player.

While the Lady Vols were winning an unprecedented fifth Division I national crown, the Vols were rebuilding with youth and raw talent looking for that formula that will eventually lead them to the Final Four.

Jerry Green, who spent the last five seasons rebuilding the basketball fortunes at the University of Oregon, became Tennessee's 15th head basketball coach April 1.

Green, 53, came to Knoxville fresh off leading Oregon to three consecutive winning seasons for the first time in 19 years. He guided the Ducks to a 17-11 mark in 1996-97, a season that saw Oregon ranked as high as No. 17 in the national polls, and a 10-0 start— OU's best in 22 years. The Ducks

Freshman Melissa Covington was the team's top scorer in its inaugural season.

defeated eventual national champion Arizona, 78-72, and national power UCLA, 87-75 in overtime last season.

Green inherited a Tennessee squad that finished 11-16 (4-12 SEC) in 1996-97. The Vols return all but three members off last year's squad that includes 10 lettermen, highlighted by some impressive young talent.

Guard Brandon Wharton, who led UT in scoring (16.8) in 1997, established himself as one of the SEC's top backcourt talents, earning second-team All-SEC honors (AP, Coaches) in just his sophomore season. Wharton ranked among the league leaders in most offensive categories in 1997, including scoring, three-point field goal percentage and free throw percentage.

Forward C.J. Black was the league's top scoring rookie last season (11.6) and was a unanimous pick for the SEC's All-Freshman Team. He was also named to Basketball Weekly's Freshman All-America squad (second team).

Charles Hathaway, a 6-10 freshman, finished the season as the SEC's top rookie rebounder, averaging 7.3 boards per outing.

Soccer Earns Trip to SEC's in First Season

When head coach Charlie MacCabe's Lady Vol soccer team walked onto the field at the Tennessee Soccer Complex for the first time Sept. 30 for its opening game against UT Chattanooga in front of a crowd of over 2,600 (UT finished ninth in the nation in average attendance), the final addition to the Lady Vol program was completed. The end result of that contest was a 7-0 UT victory, but it was the end of the season that really made a statement about the Lady Vols' newest program.

It took an overtime win over Mississippi State on the road in a controversial game for Tennessee to earn the eighth and final berth into the SEC Tournament, stealing the bid away from the Bulldogs. Unfortunately, the win meant a date with eighth-ranked Florida, a team the Lady Vols lost to earlier in the

Doug Ellington paced the Vol Harriers during the fall campaign.

Senior Katrice Malcolm provided leadership to a very young harrier squad.

The rowing team had a representative in the first ever NCAA Championships this spring.

season, 6-2. Florida went on to win the second matchup, 3-0, in a game called because of rain in the 73rd minute. UT finished the season at 6-13-1, but 3-5 in the SEC.

Freshman forward Melissa Covington led the team in every offensive category, and tallied 22 total points, while standout performances by sophomores Natalie Balash and Kassie Kees buoyed the defense.

After the UTC win, the Lady Vols jumped right into the fray by hosting then-No. 17 ranked Vanderbilt. A tough road schedule had Tennessee down to 1-3, before righting the ship by upending LSU, 4-2. However, the next game proved to be double trouble. When Tennessee fell at home in a heartbreaking, last-minute, 1-0 decision to Arkansas, the Lady Vols not only lost the game, but also freshman starting goalie Kimberly Hull to a season-ending knee injury.

Yet, the team managed to maintain its poise and rebounded again when Shivley returned to the lineup three games later as UT posted a 3-4-1 mark down the stretch.

The Lady Vols closed out the regular season with a tie at Radford, as the 19-player team had grown as a squad and persevered in its first season.

A Look at the Tennessee Harriers

The Vol cross country team posted a solid campaign this past season led by senior Stewart Ellington, junior Chris Brown and sophomore Doug Bockenstette.

The Vols started the season with a second place finish in Tennessee Quadrangular, and followed that up with a dual meet win over Indiana. Ellington was the highest Vol finisher in both races. The Vols then traveled to Blacksburg, Va., for the Virginia Tech Invitational and came away with a win in the 8K race.

The Vols then recorded an impressive fifth-place finish at the Auburn Invitational in Auburn, Ala., Oct. 12, as each Vol recorded his season best performance. Ellington was the top Vol performer finishing in 24:23.90. Following closely were teammates Brown and Dewalt finishing with times of 24:30.10 and 25:06.00, respectively.

The Vols then finished fifth out of seven teams at the Michigan Interregional Cross Country Championships. Brown was the highest placing Vol finishing in sixth place with a time of 25:12.

From there the Vols traveled to the SEC Championships in Oxford, Miss., and left with a third place finish. Bockenstette finished 14th for the Vols, and Ellington garnered a 16th place finish.

At the District III Championships, the Vols finished fifth in the 43-team field, and Brown's 11th place finished qualified him for the NCAA Championships where he finished 71st. At the District III Championships, Bockenstette finished 16th, and Ellington took the 19th spot.

While the Vols were looking for to prepare for the indoor track season the Lady Vols were rebuilding their program with a youthful corp of runners.

With a host of newcomers in the Lady Vol cross country program, including a new head coach, expectations were realistically guarded. Yet, with the return of former 11-time All-American Brenda Webb to Knoxville to serve as the team's mentor, the Lady Vols knew the future would be bright.

Unfortunately, as had been the problem in year's past, injuries would wreak havoc with the lineup. Three athletes ended up missing meets because of injuries, including senior Laura Haynes, who was expected to be a regular scoring presence, but was forced out of the entire season. Two who had made major contributions in year's past, junior Maureen Ferris and senior Katrice Malcom, were hampered by foot injuries, and another, junior Melissa Hiller had surgery in mid-season.

But while several of the upperclassmen had difficulties just being able to run, the seven newcomers kept the team afloat. Led by Kristen Ritter, who was the team's top finisher twice and was never lower than third, Meghan Mantlo and Mindy Watkins, the trio consistently lowered their times throughout the year and put together several strong performances.

In the third meet of the year at Southern Illinois, six Lady Vols broke the 20-minute barrier. Prior to that race none of the UT runners surpassed that mark. The improvement continued at the Auburn Invitational, when Ritter crossed the line in under 19 minutes. At the SEC Championships, both Ritter and Watkins placed in the top 30 with sub-19 minute times. By the season-ending District 3 Championships, Ritter had lowered her career-best time for the sixth-straight race, a feat matched by Mantlo, while Watkins also posted a career low. In the end, four different athletes led the team in six races to give the Lady Vols hope for the future.

Varsity 4+ Places Ninth in First NCAA Regatta

When UT started a rowing team last season, head coach Susannah Iacovino's goal was to qualify for the NCAA Championships sometime in the future. Little did she realize that sometime would be this year. Coach Iacovino's goal was reached by the varsity 4+, who earned an at-large berth to the first-ever NCAA Championships after being ranked fourth in the Central Region. The team of senior Amy Delashmit, senior Suni Hartsfield, sophomore Janece Rittenberry, freshman Megan Reinhart (who only began rowing this year) and freshman coxswain Kelly Hitzing placed third in the inaugural Central Region Championships in Oak Ridge, which helped convince the selection committee.

Yet, it was more than just one race that helped push UT over the top, the varsity 4+ performed well all year long. The shell took gold medals in the George Washington Invitational Crew Classic, the Florida Crew Classic, the Lexus Invitational and the Tennessee Cup.

As a team, the Lady Vols won the first three regattas of the season, before dropping their two match races to Miami (Fla.) and Ohio State, respectively.

After Ohio State, Tennessee traveled to compete for the second year in a row at the George Washington regatta. Against stiff competition, the Lady Vols fared well placing fifth, highlighted by the varsity 4+'s finish and a second-place showing by the novice 8+.

The next weekend, UT was back in Oak Ridge for the annual Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association regatta where Tennessee took first in the junior varsity 4+ and second in the varsity 4+.

The Lady Vols completed the regular season by bringing home gold in the lightweight 8+ at the Central Region Championships, the shell's second win of the year.

Tennessee finished only four-hundredths of a second out of an automatic bid to the semifinals with a fourth-place finish in its first-round heat at the NCAAs. However,

the team was granted a berth by claiming the final spot with a fourth-place finish in the repechage. In the semis, again UT finished fourth one spot out of a berth to the Grande Finals. Not to be denied, the team capped off its season with an impressive third-place showing in the Petite Final to garner ninth overall.

Second Straight 40-Win Season for Softball

Tennessee's softball team entered the 1997 season looking for something it was denied in the program's inaugural year—an NCAA Championship appearance. However, as in its first go-round, its sophomore attempt would also yield no NCAA bid, but that is not to say '97 was a disappointing season for head coach Jim Beitia's Orange and White.

The SEC debuted softball as a conference sport for the 1997 campaign, and although Tennessee was one of only two schools to have fielded a team the year before, conference competition was a battle.

After dominating the round-robin play of the Lady Vol Spring Invitational, their third-straight tournament, the Lady Vols faltered in the championship game losing to Marshall, 3-2.

But with its first-ever SEC match on the horizon, UT responded with strong performances splitting four 1-run affairs at home with Florida.

UT swept Georgia before embarking on an ambitious 10-day, 14-game road trip which included some of the stiffest competition the team had ever faced. Tennessee struggled against its lesser opponents, but took key contests from top-25 teams Long Beach State and Cal-State Northridge, to mark its first-ever victories over top-25 foes.

The long road swing continued with a trip to face then-No. 4 South Carolina, where the Lady Vols played their best softball of the season starring down one of the nation's best

Senior Lisa Wyatt was the team's most consistent offensive player throughout the season.

pitchers. UT lost the three of the four games 1-0, but in a 6-1 victory, the Lady Vols stopped All-America Trinity Johnson as well as South Carolina's NCAA record 38-game win streak.

Building off its momentum, Tennessee culminated the stretch run of the regular-season with a 17-3 run, including key victories over ranked foes South Florida (who had won all three of the previous meetings) as well as SEC West champ LSU.

Keith Blythe completed his eligibility while helping lead the Vols back to the NCAAs.

Tennessee entered the inaugural SEC Tournament as the No. 3 seed, but fell to Auburn, 2-0, and then Florida, 2-1, to close out the year.

Heading the All-Region honorees were senior first baseman Lisa Wyatt, and sophomores pitcher Buffy Walker and catcher Carrie Swinford. Walker (who tallied a 0.71 ERA to place in the nation's top 10) was also named first-team All-SEC, while sophomore outfielders Jenny Steele and Kenyail Norris were recognized as Academic All-SEC.

In the end, Tennessee received votes in all but the final poll and finished with a 45-22 overall record and 20-7 in conference play with 17 of the losses coming by two runs or less.

Vol Golf Teams Among Nation's Best

The Vol linksters trudged through a tough fall and spring schedule and posted a strong showing in the East Regional and advance to the NCAA Championships in Lake Forest, Ill. See how the Vols did on page 13.

This was the third consecutive season the Vols have advanced to the NCAA Championships and the sixth time under head coach Mike Malarkey.

The Vols finished in the middle of the pack in each of their four fall tournaments, but senior Tim Turpen took the individual title at The Nelson in Palo Alto, Calif., Nov. 8-10 by firing a three-round total of 211.

The spring season got started at The Rice University Intercollegiate in Monterey, Mexico where the Vols tied for second with Colorado with a three-round total of 874. Next up for the Vols was the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate in Jacksonville, Fla. Inclement weather was the norm, as winner Florida State won with a 25-over par effort, and Tennessee finished in a tie for fourth in the 18-team field.

The Vols then hit a streak of inconsistency and were unable to post a strong finish the rest of the season. The Vols did get an invitation to the East Regional where the put together a strong effort to finish seventh in the 23-team field. The Vols posted rounds of 293-295-300—888 to earn their third straight trip to the NCAA Championships.

Tennessee continued its tradition of strong academics by placing four players on the SEC Academic Honor Roll. Dirk Daniel, Boomer Erick, Lans Slack and Tim Turpen all earned that honor. Turpen's strong season and 12th place finish at the SEC Championships earned him second-team All-SEC status.

The Vol linksters were not the only squad to travel to the NCAA Championship as they Lady Vols were also equal to the task as they finished sixth in the NCAAs.

The 1996-97 campaign was by far the Lady Vol golf team's most successful ever. Having never been ranked higher than 10th and having finished 13th in its only previous NCAA appearance, the Lady Vols capped off a magical year with a sixth-place finish at the NCAAs and a No. 4 national ranking. En route, Tennessee won a school-record three tournaments, while finishing twice also three times (including once in a playoff), and broke numerous school records along the way. For her efforts, head coach Lori Brock was honored as SEC Coach of the Year.

The ride started back in late September when the Lady Vols captured the season-opening Lady Tar Heel Invitational as junior Erin Kurczewski finished tied for third. Tennessee quickly claimed its No. 4 ranking on Oct. 16 and never fell below sixth the rest of the year.

As the fall season neared a close, the Lady Vols collected a runner-up finish at the Lady Paladin Invitational losing to Wake Forest in a one-hole playoff.

In the first tournament of the spring, UT shot an 898 to finish second at the Sun Trust Invitational, the first time in school history the squad posted a sub-900 score.

At the Lady Gamecock Classic UT put forth its best performance to date as the squad shot back-to-back 293's to snare its second title of the season.

Two weeks later in the Duke Spring

Amy Livsey capped off her career helping the Lady Vols to their sixth-place NCAA finish.

Junior Jeremy Linn (left) and Coach John Trembley (center) await their call to the arena floor to recognize Linn's NCAA swimming records during this past season.

Invitational, the Lady Vols captured their second team title to win back-to-back tournaments for the first time ever. Tennessee's top finisher, sophomore Jessica Lindbergh, was one of three Lady Vols to place in the top 10.

For the second straight season, the team struggled in the SEC Championships, claiming sixth. Kurczewski and Lindbergh were each named second-team All-SEC, while Thompson was selected honorable mention.

No letdown was to occur at the NCAA East Regional. Freshman Malin Tveit earned All-Region honors and became the fifth Lady Vol ever to claim medalist honors, when she won the event to help propel Tennessee to a runner-up finish and an automatic berth into its second-ever NCAA Championship.

At the NCAAs, Lindbergh picked up where Tveit left off, remaining in the hunt for the individual title before settling for sixth. While Lindbergh played evenly throughout the tournament, the team gained momentum as the event progressed. Climbing from 13th to 10th to seventh over the first three days, the team's final ascent was marked by 'a school record-breaking round of 292 to conclude the weekend in sixth as the highest-finishing non-Western school.

Aqua Vols Compete for National Crowns

Coach John Trembley and the Aqua Vols were up to their usual tricks this season. The Vols posted a 10-0 dual meet record for a second consecutive undefeated season and posted a 5-0 mark at the Student Aquatic Center to continue a streak of 37 straight victories in Knoxville dating back to January 1988.

The Vols' run through the regular season brought them to the SEC Championships in Athens where they finished second to Auburn. Vol swimmers and divers brought home six league championships and three conference records.

But the highlight of the championships came in a pair of American records. UT's 200 medley relay team of Craig Gilliam, Jeremy Linn, Jeff Elder and Adam Engle posted a time of 1:25.76 to eclipse the standard. Linn followed that up by twice setting the American record in the 100 breaststroke. He swam a qualifying time of 52.26 to pass swimming legend Steve Lundquist's mark of 52.48, and then in the finals he posted a time of 51.86.

From there the Vols headed to Minneapolis, Minn., for the NCAA Championships. The Vols left the Gopher State with a fifth place finish which matched last year's finish. Linn was once again the star for the Vols as he won titles in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke to become the first Vol since Andy Coan in 1979 to win two titles at the NCAA Championships. Evan Stewart took second-place in one-meter and three-meter diving. The SEC showed it is the premiere conference in the country with Auburn coming away with the title, and Georgia finishing third to place three teams in the top five.

The Vols left the NCAAs with 39 All-America honors. Linn left with four to bring his career total to 12. Gilliam earned three, and Brendan Crowley, Casey Quilter, Adam Engle, Rodney Panek, and Evan Stewart picked up two each.

Linn's season was capped with him being named SEC swimmer of the year which was his second swimmer of the year award.

Tennessee proved to be tough in the water in both the men's and women's programs as the Lady Vols also had an opportunity to bring home an NCAA Championship.

Seniors Tracy Bonner and Dawn Burton capped off their careers as All-Americans. That is also how they began their careers, which is how sophomore teammate Kathy Pesek also started hers. Together, the three provided diving coach Dave Parrington, who was named SEC Diving Coach of the Year, with his most talented lineup in Lady Vol history.

At the NCAA Championships, Bonner became the all-time Lady Vol leader in individual All-America certificates with 10, when she finished 11th on the one-meter springboard and sixth on the three-meter attempting to defend her 1995 national title. Pesek also added to the total by scoring on the platform (seventh), one-meter (13th) and three-meter (14th), while Burton took eighth on the platform.

As a team, the Lady Vols finished 11th, three spots ahead of their No. 14 ranking. It took an outstanding final-day performance in the mile from junior Leslie Mix and sophomore Sarah Nichols, who finished fourth and fifth, respectively, to catapult Tennessee from 17th place on the third day to its final position.

The year began with a home win over Illinois in late October, but was promptly followed by an upset seven-point loss to Kentucky. The team rebounded to defeat South Carolina, and although overmatched, put up a gritty performance against then-No. 3 Michigan before falling, 160-140.

Squeezed in between two meets was the Nike Cup, where Burton topped a banner UT diving performance by capturing both the one- and three-meter competitions.

The Lady Vols entered their matchup with then-No. 7 Florida looking to topple the Gators for the first time ever. However, in the slimmest of margins, Florida snuck by Tennessee, 123-120.

The team then ended the year at 5-4 overall and 2-3 in the SEC after a win over Alabama.

As the precursor to the NCAA Championships, the Zone B Diving meet, featured all five Tennessee divers, a unique accomplishment for the Lady Vols. However, only the trio of Bonner, Burton and Pesek qualified for NCAAs.

Among the swimmers, head coach Dan Collela received his biggest boost at the NCAAs from DeSilvia. The all-purpose per-

Junior Tori DeSilvia earned five All-America honors at this year's NCAA Championships.

Justin Ross led the Diamond Vols in batting average .

Junior Manisha Malhotra guided the Lady Vols to an NCAA Regional title and championship berth.

Thomas Mozur, the lone Vol senior, finished with a 9-15 mark on the year.

former collected All-American honors in five events, including the 100y (12th) and 200y fly (seventh) and the 100y breast (11th). In all, each of the eight UT athletes who participated in the NCAA Championships returned home with an All-America certificate.

Diamond Vols Ride Offensive Power

At the start of the season, no one knew what to expect from the Diamond Vols. The pitching staff suffered heavy losses during the off-season, and a sluggish fall season left folks in Big Orange Country not knowing what the expect.

Well, all the Vols did was jump out to a school record 18-1 start including a 15-game winning streak. During the first 19 games, the Vols hit a lofty .377 with 30 home runs and scored in double digits in 13 of those games.

The hot start eventually saw the Vols rise into the top 10 in the national polls where they spent nine weeks and peaked at No. 5. The Vols were not only the thing off to a hot start in Knoxville. Chattanooga native and freshman Kurt Keene was making his mark on the diamond. He started his season with a 17-game hitting streak in which he batted .522 with five home runs and 29 RBI. He finished the season hitting .368 with a team leading 13 home runs and also drove in a team high 58 runs.

The Vols eventually cooled from their hot streak to start the season, but were still leading the SEC Eastern Division heading into the final league series of the season. The Vols traveled to Gainesville to face the Gators needing one win to tie for the Eastern Division title and two to win it outright.

The Vols dropped the first game of the series, but senior Ken Folkers followed with complete game win for the Vols in game two. Florida took the rubber game and the Vols shared the Eastern Division crown with the Gators.

Next up was the SEC Tournament and with it came an unwelcome exit after two games. But for the fifth consecutive year, the Vols advanced to regional play. They headed to the Midwest Regional in Stillwater, Okla., where they won the first game only to drop the next two as the season came to an end. Folkers was named to the all-tournament team after batting .455 and picking up the pitching win.

The season ended with Vols record standing at 42-19, as the team set seven school records, which were batting average (.326), home runs (78), doubles (149), extra base hits (252), total bases (1158), slugging percentage (.520) and runs per game (7). Outfielder Clay Green led the conference with 54 stolen bases, one shy of the league record.

Vol Tennis Squads Finding Formulas for Success

It was another All-American year for the junior tandem of Manisha Malhotra and Margie Lepsi who led the team to its first 20-win season since 1991-92 and a return trip to the NCAA Championships. The banner year was marked by the opening of the Tennessee Indoor Tennis Center in February, which enabled the Vol tennis teams to play indoor matches on campus for the first time ever.

The Lady Vols began the season 3-0, their best start since 1992, but preceded to lose five straight heartbreaking matches by one or two points, including three to programs ranked in the top 10. Four wins followed, but another one-point defeat to then-No. 8 Mississippi stopped the run. Of Tennessee's 10 losses on the season, six came by one or two points.

UT was granted the top seed at the NCAA Southwest Regionals and proceeded to run the table, beating Baylor, Houston and for a third time— LSU, to earn its sixth trip to the NCAA Championships and its second in three years.

Fourth-seeded UCLA got the best of UT in the first-round of the NCAAs, 5-0, while Malhotra and Lepsi each lost their singles and doubles matches to close out the year. Malhotra, the nation's No. 14 singles player, lost to top-ranked and second-seeded Katie Schlukebir of Stanford, while No. 45 Lepsi dropped a three-set match to Georgia's No. 28 Marissa Catlin. In doubles, Malhotra and Lepsi, the NCAA's third-ranked, but unseeded, duo, dropped their first match to Florida's Amanda Basica and Traci Green, to finish with a 23-16 record.

Overall, Tennessee ended 20-10 with a 9-4 mark in the conference and a No. 13 ranking, winning 12 of its final 15 matches. Malhotra finished as the team leader in singles (32) and doubles (26) wins, en route to All-America honors in both disciplines. Seventeen of Malhotra's singles victories were against top 100 players, including a win against one-time No. 1 Vicky Maes of Arizona at the ITA National Team Indoors which featured the nation's top teams. In addition, she was also declared co-Southeast Region champion by winning the Rolex tournament in November.

Lepsi, who earned All-America honors in doubles and was a first-team All-SEC selection, ended the singles campaign with 27 wins, including 11 against the top 100, while sophomore Emily Woodside posted a team-best 30-12 record. Malhotra, senior Kristin Bachochin and sophomores Carrie Spinner and Emily Woodside each concluded the year named Academic All-SEC.

With inexperience on Tennessee's side at the beginning of the season, head coach John Kreis knew that 1997 could be a long season. After going 19-9 in his first endeavor as the Vols' leader and a 11-11 sophomore campaign, the Tennessee alum recruited players to ensure winning in the program's future.

Freshman Juan Gamboa, Bill and Dan McGugin and Kaspar Rasmussen, along with Alabama transfer Louis Van Huyssteen added some necessary support to the holes left by Chris Mahony and Pablo Montana's exit at the end of 1996. Although Tennessee struggled to a 5-15 overall mark and a winless SEC (0-11) record, flares of excellence throughout the season proved that the future of Tennessee tennis will be a bright one.

Facing the loss of their potential No. 1 player in Chad Copenhaver to a back injury, the Vols took to the courts for the first time in 1997 in the O'Charley's Tennis Classic. They emerged with a 1-3 record after losing to Indiana and South Alabama and winning over South Florida. Tennessee then went on a 4-5 spurt with wins over The Citadel, Murray State, UTC and Clemson and losses to Virginia Tech, Georgia, Vanderbilt, Georgia Tech and Florida.

The Vols ended the season with an eight-match losing streak to highly-ranked SEC opponents Mississippi (8), Arkansas (38), LSU (14), Kentucky (5), Mississippi State (3), Alabama (20), South Carolina (35) and Auburn (19).

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols How Vol Sports Developed

For decades, Tennessee football dwarfed the non-revenue sports on the Hill, a circumstance that didn't set well with the proponents of track and field, baseball, swimming, tennis and golf. The lack of sufficient funding seemed to condemn those programs to forever be called that hated name, minor sports.

Ironically, it was a football man who came to their rescue. Bob Woodruff was his name, and putting UT at the top of every varsity sport was his aim.

Woodruff had become athletic director in 1963. Actually, the school had been without an athletic director since the death of Robert R. Neyland a year earlier. The head football coach, Bowden Wyatt, had taken on the extra duties, but when Wyatt was terminated in the spring of 1963, the school administration opted to separate the two positions. Woodruff, who had returned to join his friend and classmate as an assistant grid coach, was named AD and Jim McDonald was elevated from assistant to head football coach.

Football, then as now, was the big revenue producer for the athletic department, and Woodruff's first steps were to shore up that area. Attendance had been lagging for several years. Woodruff launched a season ticket drive aimed largely at local businesses and corporations, selling large blocs of tickets at a whack. In 1964, Woodruff brought in his former quarterback at the University of Florida, Doug Dickey, as head coach, and the UT football program began to prosper both on the field and at the box office.

With fan interest restored in Big Orange football, Woodruff set about creating more seating space at Neyland Stadium. His first project, in 1968, was to doubledeck the east side stands. (The west side had been doubledecked six years earlier.) At a cost of $750,000, the stadium's capacity was increased by 6307 seats to a total of 64,429. That was only the beginning. There were three more stadium expansions during Woodruff's 22-year tenure, hiking the seating capacity to more than 90,000 by the time he retired in 1985.

But what was different about this rich UT grid era was that this time the non-revenue sports shared in the bonanza. During his 10 years as Florida's AD, Woodruff had upgraded the secondary sports programs to a point where the Gator all-sports performance was the best in the Southeastern Conference on an annual basis. He set his sights on the same goal at UT.

"Any sport that is worth having is worth supporting," he said, and then proceeded to back up his words. He hired the energetic Chuck Rohe to head up the track and field program in 1963. Thanks to the generosity of Knoxville business leader Tom Black, a new home was built for the Vol tracksters. Tom Black Track's state-of-the-art features and its 5000 permanent seats helped lure the NCAA championships to Knoxville in 1969. The Tennessee program, long an SEC second division entry, spread its wings and soared.

From 1964 to 1978, first under Rohe and then under Stan Huntsman, the Vols clicked off 15 consecutive SEC outdoor champions, the longest period of dominance in conference history. In 1974, under Huntsman, the school won its first NCAA outdoor championship.

The upturn in swimming under another Woodruff-hired coach, Ray Bussard, was just as spectacular. Bussard's well-trained, highly-motivated troops won eight SEC titles from 1969 through 1978, capping that run with an NCAA championship in 1978. Vol swim meets had traditionally been conducted in relative privacy, but now fans were flocking to the new UT Student Aquatic Center.

Basketball was already flourishing under Ray Mears when Woodruff took over, but the new AD helped create a larger audience for the cagers. He led an expansion project that turned the old 7500-seat Armory Fieldhouse into Stokely Center and its 12,700 capacity, thanks largely to a gift from food cannery executive William B. Stokely Jr. Before he stepped down in 1985, Woodruff played a major role in the planning and funding of the 24,000-seat Thompson-Boling Arena.

Varsity tennis got a major boost when the UT Varsity Courts complex, one of the nation's finest, was built in 1976. When Mike DePalmer was hired in 1981, UT for the first time gained recognition as a national tennis power. DePalmer's fruitful career was highlighted by a 34-1 season in 1990 when his team won the SEC title and finished runner-up in the NCAA Championships.

Almost from a standing start, Tennessee won eight of 14 all-sports crown between 1968 and 1981, thus banishing the notion it was only a football school once and for all. In the long history of Volunteer varsity sports, perhaps only Bob Neyland and Nathan W. Dougherty have had a bigger impact than the burly fellow who came to school as a walk-on tackle in 1935 and stayed to be part of the great unbeaten and untied team of 1938. Bob Woodruff, now in his early 80s, is still the Volunteers' No. 1 fan, whatever game they're playing.

Former Vol

Todd Williams (1988-91)

A native of Monroe, Mich., Williams became one of the most successful distance runners in Tennessee history. He finished his Tennessee career with eight All-America certificates, three each in cross country and outdoor track and two in indoor track.

In the 1991 NCAA outdoor meet, won by the Vols, Williams led the Vols with 14 points finishing second in the 10,000 meter run and, with the team title hanging in the balance on the final day, Williams extended himself in the 5000 meters to finish third helping clinch the title for the Vols.

Going into 1997, Williams was the Vols' all-time best in the 3000 meter run (7:58.34), 5000 meter run (13:41.50) and 10,000 meter run (28:14.4). He was one of three winners of the Jon Young Memorial Captain's Awards in 1991.

He ran in the 1992 and 1996 Olympics and is currently the United States' top distance runner.

Todd Williams (right) and Glenn Morgan proudly display the Vols 1989 SEC Cross Country Championship trophy.

Lady Vol Golf Caps Successful Season at NCAA Championships

When Women's Athletics Director Joan Cronan initiated the Lady Vol golf team in the 1992-93 year, a 10-year plan was established with a five-year goal to be among the top five nationally. That five-year ride culminated on May 24 in Columbus, Ohio, when the Lady Vols shot a school-record 292 to finish sixth at the NCAA Championships. Their score was the second-lowest final-day total at the event, only one shot shy of what it took Arizona State to win the national championship.

When it was all said and done Tennessee earned the No. 4 position in the Rolex College Rankings. A ranking that meant the Lady Vols had accomplished their goal of being in the top five.

The coaching staff knew it was going to take an incredible performance in the NCAAs to finish among the leaders. The top three teams in the nation play on a level above everyone else, but a top-eight finish would put the Lady Vols among the elite. They knew it was going to take an incredible effort over the tournament to get there. And in dramatic fashion, they delivered. A performance in which the coaching staff received almost everything they could have expected.

The Lady Vols opened the tournament shooting a 309 to place 13th among the 18-team field. Windy conditions in the afternoon and first-day jitters slowed the team. But, the first-day highlight was the performance of sophomore Jessica Lindbergh, who tied for 67th at last year's NCAAs. After day one at the 1997 tournament, Lindbergh was tied for 14th with a two-over 74.

On the second day, Lindbergh moved up to a tie for second with a 70, two shots out of the lead. The team also rebounded to move into 10th. Dropping its first-day score by eight strokes, the Lady Vols moved within six strokes of fifth place.

The rise continued on day three, as UT dropped another six strokes off its day-two score to shoot 295 and sit in seventh. Lindbergh, however slipped two spots in the individual standings to move to a tie for fourth three strokes out of the lead. Junior teammate Erin Kurczewski meanwhile had started to move into the hunt. Sitting in a tie for 20th, Kurczewski notched a 72 for a 224 three-day total.

On the last day, the Lady Vols knew they had to shoot a top score to finish among the leaders. Brimming with confidence, the team climbed the ladder one last time with its record-setting final-day output. UT's 1197 placed the team five shots behind fifth-place UCLA, ending as the highest finishing team not from the West Coast.

It was an outcome not entirely unexpected by the Lady Vol faithful, but the team had improved steadily throughout the season and with determination and perseverance the squad had accomplished its mission. Now all that lies ahead on the next phase of Cronan's 10-year plan is a national championship.

NCAA Championships

TEAM

1	Arizona State	297	300	290	291	1178
2	San Jose State	299	293	295	293	1180
3	Arizona	292	298	302	298	1190
4	Stanford	304	300	293	294	1191
5	UCLA	301	297	301	293	1192
6	TENNESSEE	309	301	295	292	1197
7	Oregon	303	302	297	298	1200

INDIVIDUAL

1	Heather Bowie	Texas	73	73	69	70	285
T2	Marisa Baena	Arizona	72	73	73	69	287
	Janice Moodie	San Jose St.	68	74	74	71	287
4	Shauna Estes	Georgia	73	75	71	70	289
5	Kellee Booth	Arizona St.	73	71	75	71	290
6	JESSICA LINDBERGH	TENNESSEE	74	70	74	73	291
T7	Jae Jean Ro	Stanford	77	76	69	70	292
	T. Selvaratnum	Arizona St.	75	75	67	75	292
T11	ERIN KURCZEWSKI	TENNESSEE	76	76	72	71	295
T47	MALIN TVEIT	TENNESSEE	78	78	74	75	305
T69	AMY LIVSEY	TENNESSEE	82	81	75	74	312
T76	SKYLI YAMADA	TENNESSEE	81	77	82	74	314

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This Week In Big Orange Country

Track Vols at NCAAs

The Tennessee track and field team had planned to fare much better than the score indicated from the NCAA Championships in Bloomington, Ind., but things just never got going for the Vols.

Tennessee junior decathlete Tom Pappas from Azalea, Ore., completed the first half of the decathlon in fourth place after the first day of competition. Pappas was less than 200 points behind Aaron Fox of Texas for the lead. Pappas won the SEC Championship with 7677 points in the decathlon.

Pappas' journey through the first five events saw him finish seventh in the 100m dash in 11.04, sixth in the long jump with a leap of 22-7, third in the shot put with a throw of 46-3 1/2, a tie for seventh in the high jump, clearing 6-5, and finishing eighth in the 400m dash, while setting a personal best of 49.89.

The second day saw Pappas fall behind finishing eighth overall with 7487 points, finishing almost 500 points behind NCAA Champion James Dunkleberger who had 7924 points.

Pappas placed third in the 110m hurdles in 14.72, 11th in the discus with a toss of 129-3, 12th in the pole vault, clearing 14-5 1/4, sixth in the javelin with a 188-0 mark, and finishing 12th in the 500m in 4:59.19. For his effort, Pappas did earn All-America honors.

In other action for the Volunteers, sophomore Dawane Wallace failed to qualify for the 110m hurdles semifinals as he finished 21st with a disappointing time of 14.14 in the trials. Senior Mike Moran, who finished 13th in the 1500m semifinals in 3:49.74, also failed to qualify for the finals of his event. Sophomore Diondre Jackson finished 12th in the high jump, clearing 7-0 1/2, which was well below his performance best of 7-3 1/4 at the SEC Championship and earned him a fourth-place finish.

Tennessee SEC Champion Wes Boudreau earned All-America honors in the hammer throw as he finished eighth with a toss of 217-8. Johansson of USC won the event with a toss of 230-1.

The final day of competition had three Vols competing for points, as Aaron Ausmus, Russell Johnson and Doug Ellington were scheduled to compete.

Ausmus, the NCAA Indoor Shot Put Champion, earned All-America honors with a sixth-place finish. The LaFollette native, who finished third in the SEC Championship with a toss of 59-10 1/4, nabbed the honor with a 61-1 1/4 toss on his first throw of the day. Ausmus won the indoor title earlier this year with a toss of over 64 feet, which happened to be the winning toss distance as Dartmouth's Adam Nelson won the event with his shot of 64-4 1/2.

Tom Pappas earned All-America honors with his eighth-place finish in the decathlon.

Doug Ellington finished in 11th place in the 5000m finals in a time of 14:18.61. Mebrahtom Keflezighi of UCLA won the event with a time of 13:44.17. UT's Russell Johnson failed to qualify as he no heighted in the pole vault competition.

Tennessee tied for 47th with five points. Arkansas won its sixth consecutive national crown with 55 points, outdistancing second-place Texas which finished with 42.5 points.

—Brenda Rabon

Relay Team Has Turnaround Year

In its best effort last year, the Lady Volunteer outdoor track team's 4x400m relay posted a time of 3:43.25. It was good enough for a seventh-place finish at the SEC Championships. What a difference a year makes. This season virtually the same group posted a time nearly 11 seconds faster, the 11th-best mark in UT history, and finished fifth at the NCAA Championships.

The unbelievable turnaround can be attributed to many areas: the improvement of junior Saidah Jones, the emergence of sophomore Erica Witter as a 400 meter threat, the presence of freshman leadoff Lesly Love, and the return of former All-American Myrtle Chester-Ferguson to train the foursome.

The team showed steady improvement throughout the year finishing in the top three in five different meets. They took first at the season-opening Clemson Classic and the Jamaican National Jamalco Invitational, and were second at the SEC Championships and the Gatorade Classic.

The five athletes who comprised the relay were: Love (a Knoxville native and Karns High School graduate), Witter, sophomore Janelle Briggs, and Jones, with Kelli White occasionally swapping with Witter. Because of their finish at the NCAAs, which ran (in order) Love, Witter, Briggs and Jones, each of the four were All-Americans. White also earned All-American accolades in two events, helping the Lady Vols collect 14 points and an 18th-place finish.

Sophomore Kelli White made major contributions in the 4x400 relay team's turnaround.

The team's NCAA performance was not a total surprise. Entering the NCAAs, the squad's best time was 3:36.13 run at the SEC Championships, which included White instead of Witter. But Witter, who started the year as part of the relay team but was bumped mid-season for White, improved her 400 times drastically and returned to the foursome on a tear. Witter's late-season development was all the more impressive considering she did not run the event as an individual all year. The return of Witter to the lineup allowed the coaches to let White concentrate on her individual events at the NCAAs, an approach which paid off for everyone.

Another athlete whose comeback put the relay into the NCAAs is Jones, who had by far the best season of her career. Jones had a breakthrough season in 1996, but this year dropped three seconds off her time to post a career-best 52.57 to finish seventh at the SEC Championships. Jones competed at the NCAAs in the 400, but did not qualify for the finals, running a 53.18 in the trials. She has seen steady improvement each of her first three years and this season was selected as the team's most improved athlete.

"Saidah is the type of person who pulls people up with her. When she has a good performance, everyone else tends to follow," said Chester-Ferguson. "She has been a leader since day one."

With as much unexpected success as the team experienced this year, the future can only get better. Youth and inexperience had been a major obstacle entering the season and if next year's lineup stays intact, the relay would feature a senior, two juniors and a sophomore.

"As a team, we have tremendous potential for growth," summarized Witter. "We should challenge as one of the top teams in the NCAAs over the years to come."

—Brad Laux

Linskters Fail to Make Cut!

The 1996-97 Tennessee men's golf team left quite a legacy in Vol lore before the big orange sun set on the season and many of their collegiate careers.

After weeks of waiting and hoping, Tennessee received a NCAA East Regional Championship berth. The Vols beat out two other teams "on the bubble" to secure a spot by the narrowest of margins. The Vols took advantage of their opportunity and raced to Homestead, Va., to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

While the Tennessee assault slowed in the final round of the regionals, the Vols finished seventh in a field of 23 of the finest teams in the eastern U.S. The seventh-place finish matches the school-best NCAA East Regionals finish from 1995.

Amidst the whispers that maybe a bid should have gone to another school, the Volunteers proved they were miles away from the uninspiring SEC Championship finish.

With the insurance that the Vols were going to make their third consecutive trip to the NCAA Championships, the Vols only needed to play as they did in Virginia.

Unfortunately, the Vols ran out of good fortune. Rounds of 300-299—599 couldn't propel Tennessee past the 15-team cut line. The Vols missed the cut as they finished 28th among the best collegiate squads the nation has to offer.

Individually, no Vols made the cut. Vol leader Tim Turpen came closest with a four-over par 146.

The NCAA Championships ended a roller coaster 1996-97 season that was always unpredictable and never for the faint of heart.

Head coach Mike Malarkey and assistant coach Colin Moskal deserve a great deal of credit for the Vols' appearance at the NCAA Championships.

However, the NCAA trip would not have been possible without the efforts of each golfer who helped steady the ship. Perhaps the most amazing quality that defines the 1996-97 Vol golf squad was a dogged determination to keep the ship afloat for better things to come.

—Nathan Kirkham

NCAA Results

Team Scores

1.	Pepperdine	287-288-286-287—1148
2.	Wake Forest	290-295-287-279—1151
3.	Clemson	291-287-291-284—1153
4.	Ohio State	292-289-286-287—1154
5.	Oklahoma State	286-298-283-289—1156
	Arizona State	299-281-288-288—1156
28.	Tennessee	300-299—599Did Not Make Cut

Vol Individual Scores

Tim Turpen	72-74—146
Boomer Erick	75-73—148
Derrick Centers	75-76—151
Keith Blythe	78-76—154
Kevin Law	79-77—156

VASF NEWS AND NOTES

Compiled by Donnell Field

Questions on any information below can be answered by calling (423) 974-1218.

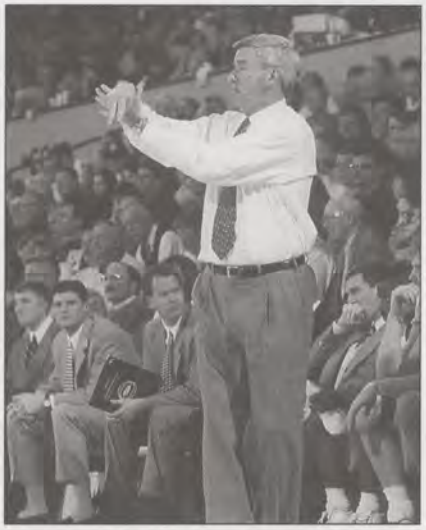
Travel Internationally with the Basketball Vols and Coach Jerry Green

Vol fans, have you ever wanted to go to Europe? How would you like to go to Europe with the basketball Vols?

Tennessee Head Coach Jerry Green will take his basketball Vols abroad for a foreign tour August 12-25 and you are invited to go along. The travel itinerary is still subject to change as of the press date, but now includes time in Paris and Nice, the Isle of Sardonia and Rome. The cost is $2595 per person double occupancy and includes air, hotel, ground transportation and breakfast.

There will be plenty of time for sightseeing and lots of time to get to know the Vols as you will be traveling with the team.

It will also be the first chance to see Coach Green's team in action against international competition. The trip is limited to the first 30 people to sign up. All 30 slots must be filled. If not, your money will be refunded. Please make checks payable to U.T. Athletic Department. Please call Mike Hamilton in the UT Athletic Development Office if you are interested in participating in this once in a lifetime opportunity.



Coach Jery Green and the Vol cagers will travel to Europe to play some of Europe's finest basketball teams.

Football Change Request

All request for changes, including those seated in the ADA sections, will be filled as quickly as possible according to turnover and donor level. Non-donor-based seats cannot be improved. With more than 102,000 seats, the VASF office will need at least until the middle of July to finish seat assignments.

Football Parking

Those seeking handicapped parking need to have their request in by June 30. You must send a copy of the state placard with your request for a parking permit.

To be eligible for parking, your VASF gift must have been made by the priority deadline of March 15.

Parking cost will be $40 per permit for the home season on campus. Ag campus parking will cost $30 per permit for the season, while RV parking is $6 per permit per game. RVs will NOT be allowed to park on the campus the day of the game.

Currie to Join VASF Staff

Effective July 1, John Currie will become the Executive Director of VASF. He will be responsible for day-to-day management operations as well as handling the scholarship fund portion of the Development Office. Currie will handle the duties that now Associate Athletics Director Mike Hamilton handled. Hamilton is now responsible for endowments, planned giving and major gift contributions to the Athletic Department.

Currie comes from Wake Forest where he was the Assistant Director of the Deacon Club. He has worked at Wake Forest for the past four years while earning his bachelor's degree there.

Summertime Alumni Picnics

There are two picnics sponsored by the Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving scheduled for this summer. The first is in Elizabethton on Tuesday, July 22, at Elizabethton High School. The second will be in Nashville on Thursday, July 24, at the National Guard Armory. Contact Steve Catlett at Alumni Affairs at (423) 974-3011 for more details.

Knoxville Largest Tailgate Party

On August 16, the World's Fair Park will be the site of Knoxville's "Largest Tailgate Party" sponsored by Hound Dogs. WIVK, WBIR Channel 10, and the Knoxville News-Sentinel will help promote the event. Proceeds will go to the United Way. More details will be forthcoming as they become available.

Welcome Back Barbecue

The Welcome Back Barbecue, a chance for Tennessee Volunteer fans to meet Tennessee football players and coaches, will be held on Saturday, August 23, in Thompson-Boling Arena. Further information will be available as we get the full details.

Summer Ideas

Are you looking for a camp to aid in your child's knowledge and development of their skills? You might want to consider sending them to one of the many athletic camps going on this summer on the UT campus. See page 2 for more details about those camps.

The Last Word...
ONE OF THE BEST

When we interviewed former Vol center Bob Johnson a few weeks ago for our tribute to Jim McDonald, it brought back fond memories of a wonderful era in Vol football, a time in which Doug Dickey breathed life back into the Vol program, a time of breath-taking wins and tough losses, a time in which the Vols were back in the nation's elite.

Coming to the Vols from Cleveland, Tenn., Johnson became one of the dominant players in Tennessee history on and off the field.

"Bob became a leader immediately," Dickey recalled. "Physically, he was an excellent football player, but, more than that, he was a dynamic person in our group of athletes for four years. There was never any doubt he was going to be a leader of whatever group he would be part of.

Bob Johnson was the "man in the middle" for the Vols from 1965-67, the linchpin of outstanding Tennessee offensive lines.

"He had a stature, a demeanor about him, that let you know he was a leader. He had the brainpower as well as the musclepower to get the total scholar-athlete program done at the University of Tennessee."

You want accomplishments on and off the field? You got 'em. He was team captain in 1967 and a two-time All-SEC and All-America selection (1966-67). He was a GTE Academic All-America selection in 1967, a National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award winner in 1967, and was the center on the "100 Years of Volunteers" team, as selected in 1990.

In 1989, he was elected to the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame, joining a number of great names from Vol and college football history. He was the 12th Vol so honored, part of a period from 1985 to 1997 in which the Vols have had seven selections to the prestigious Hall.

He selected as "Distinguished American" by the Cincinnati and East Tennessee Chapters of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame. The award is given to a former player who "has carried the lessons learned on the football field to a life of service in the community."

As you will no doubt remember, Bob was the first of three brothers to play center at Tennessee (joining Tom 1970-72 and Paul 1973-75). He was also one of those rare players who captained his team in high school, college (30 years ago this spring) and the pros.

He was the first player chosen by Paul Brown and the Cincinnati Bengals, third overall, in the 1968 professional draft. He played 12 years in an Orange and Black uniform and had his jersey retired.

"I don't think anybody could have been luckier as a coach to have had him come along at the time he did," Dickey said. "I don't think anybody could have enjoyed a player-coach relationship any more than I did with Johnson and continue to enjoy when I see him."

Johnson became a center for the Vols in spring practice 1965, inherited jersey No. 54 and, by his own admission, he and Charley Fulton, the "knuckleball" runner Dickey wanted at quarterback, went through a tough time of it during those April drills.

"I had played center some in high school," Johnson recalled. "I'm not sure I played any center when I was a freshman. I had always been a punt snapper and that may have been part of it.

"I don't know why I moved to center unless Coach Dickey looked at what he had going into my sophomore season. Reggie Jellicorse was a pretty good center, but he was a senior. It might have been a matter of what do we do after he left.

"To compound things, Charley was basically a single-wing tailback and Coach Dickey wanted him to be the quarterback. Charley had never taken a snap from center and I hadn't played much center, so we had a terrible time that spring just with the center-quarterback exchange.

"All of a sudden that fall, I think we had very few exchange problems, but, if you had watched spring practice, you would have had to have worried about it."

His playing field now in the business world at Imperial Adhesive in Cincinnati with a big league dose of community service thrown in, but he's still a team player, just like he was on the Hill.

"As I move along, the most important thing about working with an interactive group like a team or company is that you are unselfish.

"I think part of being a good, unselfish team member is being the best individual cog you can be. It is not criticizing your teammates. If can say I'm the best center I can be, that I work hard, that I lift weights, that I run and that, individually, I'm a good player, I should also be unselfish enough to do whatever it takes to have a successful team.

"Unselfishness is the most important attitude a player or member of any organization can have. It is the belief that the team is more important. If I could be remembered for anything, it would be as somebody who individually tried very hard, but was an unselfish person who cared a lot more for the overall organization that for any individual needs."

—Tom Mattingly

"The Pride of the Southland Marching Band" adds excitement to Vol football every Saturday in the fall. Photo by Donnell Field.

Smokey's Tale
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